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Department of State TELEGRAM

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9253
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4629
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1161
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2812

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9087

CINCPAC FOR PLAD

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN: GIA DINH

1. CAMPAIGN POSTERS AND HANDBILLS HAVE FINALLY BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN GIA DINH: AS OF OCTOBER 20, POSTERS COVER MOST AVAILABLE SURFACES. A ROUGH SAMPLING OF PLATFORM PROMISES APPEARING ON HANDBILLS AND POSTERS IN GIA DINH II REVEAL A NUMBER OF RECURRING THEMES: PROMISES TO END CORRUPTION AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE, TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, AND TO WORK FOR PEACE AND THE RE-UNIFICATION OF VIET-NAM. OTHER SPECIFIC TOPICS OF INTEREST MENTIONED
INCLUDE THE NEED TO REDUCE

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NUMBER OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY AND A CALL FOR AN END TO

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THE PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE OF "FOREIGNERS" ON THE LIFE OF THE PEOPLE. THERE ARE PROMISES OF BETTER HOSPITALS, CHEAPER MEDICINCES, MORE SCHOOLS, LOWER COST OF LIVING, RESOLUTION OF ELECTRIC POWER AND WATER SUPPLY PROBLEMS, AID TO THE POOR, A BETTER DRAFT LAW, MORE ORPHANAGES AND BETTER CHILD CARE, AND EVEN TO SEE THAT ALL MOTORBIKES HAVE LICENSE PLATES. ONE CANDIDATE STATES HE WILL WORK TO DEVELOP LOVE AND VIRTURE, AND ANOTHER THAT IF ELECTED HE WILL DONATE HIS SALARY TO THE POOR.

2. THERE ARE ABOUT 170 CANDIDATES STILL IN THE RACE IN GIA DINH (SOME ADDITIONAL WITHRAWALS HAVE OCCURRED SINCE REFTEL). AT LEAST SIX AND PROBABLY MORE ARE EMPLOYING THE DOVE SYMBOL; MOST OF THESE MAKE STRONG APPEALS FOR "PEACE." THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO BE CALLS FOR "PEACE AT ANY PRICE," HOWEVER. ONE CANDIDATE USING THE DOVE CLAIMS HE USED THE SYMBOL BEFORE DZU DID IN THE VILLAGE ELECTIONS.

3. THERE IS SOME PERSONAL CAMPAIGNING, AND IN SEVERAL INSTANCES CANDIDATES HAVE GONE INTO HAMLETS. SOMETIMES SEVERAL CANDIDATES SHARE A CAR OR TRI-LAMBRETTA. IN NHA BE DISTRICT,

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MRS. TRAN THI XA, THE ONLY WOMAN DEPUTY IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, HAS BEEN CAMPAIGNING WITH HER CHILDREN. SOME BUT NOT MANY CANDIDATES HAVE LOUD-SPEAKER EQUIPPED TRI-LAMBRETTAS PLYING [illegible] ROADS.

4. ALTHOUGH IT IS TECHNICALLY NOT LEGAL IN GIA DINH FOR CANDIDATES TO CAMPAIGN AS A "LIST," SOME ARE DOING SO. TRAN HIEU TRUNG, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF HANH THONG VILLAGE PEOPLES COUNCIL IN GA VAP DISTRICT, SHOWED EMBOFF A SMALL (AND ILLEGAL) HANDBILL WITH THE SYMBOLS OF FIVE CANIDATES. HE SAID THIS WAS BEING CIRCULATED QUIETLY BY THE CATHOLIC CITIZENS BLOC, AND ALSO CLAIMED THAT OTHER SUCH HANDBILLS ISSUED BY OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS WERE IN CIRCULATION. BUNKER

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